

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUANCE SYSTEM

Mayor's Order 2008-35

March 6, 2008

SUBJECT: Additional Final Action on Reorganization and Rightsizing of
District of Columbia Public Schools

ORIGINATING AGENCY: Office of the Mayor

On February 1, 2008, the Mayor and the Chancellor of the District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS) announced final action to close and/or consolidate 20 school programs and buildings and a proposed plan to close additional four school buildings through a reorganization and rightsizing plan, pursuant to Title 5 (Board of Education), Section 3607 of the D.C. Municipal Regulations. In order to provide high-quality, innovative, and rigorous educational opportunities to all DCPS students, the DCPS school system must be reorganized to meet its current needs. Most DCPS schools are under-enrolled. The inefficiencies of managing the administration, staffing, and facilities in underutilized schools limit DCPS's ability to offer a full and comprehensive curriculum, programs, services, and opportunities for all of its students. By rightsizing the school system, either through closing, consolidating, or realigning schools and programs, DCPS will be able to offer parents and students rich, quality educational opportunities across the city. By more efficiently utilizing existing resources, the District can ensure that these resources and investments have the greatest impact on increasing student achievement.

Complete details of the proposal, including supporting criteria, findings, and recommendations, were posted online at <http://www.k12.dc.us/rrr/rrr.htm> and at <http://edreform.dc.gov>. The Chancellor, acting under authority delegated by the Mayor, held a community meeting on February 27, 2008 to receive input and comment from the public on the proposal. Notes of public comments were taken at the community meeting and have been reviewed by the Chancellor and the Deputy Mayor for Education. In addition, the Chancellor and the Deputy Mayor have reviewed individual comments submitted by mail and/or e-mail.

After careful consideration, and after consultation with the Chancellor and Deputy Mayor, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the District of Columbia by section 422(6) and (11) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act of 1973, as amended, 87 Stat. 790, Pub. L. No. 93-198, D.C. Official Code § 1-204.22(6) and (11) (2007 Supp.), and Title I of the Public Education Reform Amendment Act of 2007, effective June 12, 2007, D.C. Law 17-9, D.C. Official Code § 38-171 *et seq.* (2007 Supp.), it is hereby **ORDERED** that:

1. **FINAL ACTION ON SCHOOL CLOSINGS:** The following District of Columbia Public Schools shall be closed on the schedule listed below.

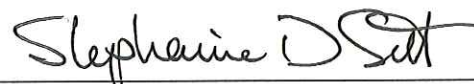
Benning Elementary School (after 2007/2008 school year)

Garnet-Patterson Middle School (no earlier than 2011)

Merritt Middle School (after 2007/2008 school year)

Park View Elementary School (no earlier than 2011, after Bruce Monroe modernization)
2. **SUBDELEGATION OF AUTHORITY:** The Mayor hereby delegates to Chancellor Michelle Rhee authority to take such further action as shall be necessary to implement this Order.
3. **EFFECT:** This Mayor's Order supersedes all previous Mayors' Orders to the extent of any inconsistency therein.
4. **EFFECTIVE DATE:** This Order shall be effective March 6, 2008.


ADRIAN M. FENTY
MAYOR

ATTEST: 
STEPHANIE D. SCOTT
SECRETARY OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA


**GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL**

Legal Counsel Division



MEMORANDUM

TO: James J. Sandman
General Counsel
District of Columbia Public Schools

FROM: Wayne C. Witkowski 
Deputy Attorney General
Legal Counsel Division

DATE: March 5, 2008

SUBJECT: Legal Sufficiency Review of Draft Mayor's Order Entitled, Additional Final
Action on Reorganization and Rightsizing of District of Columbia Public
Schools
(AM-08-052 C) (MID 220271) (Doc 243469)

This responds to your March 3, 2008 e-mail by which you submitted the above-referenced draft Mayor's Order (Order) to this Office for a legal sufficiency review.

The Order sets forth the final action on school closings for four schools. The Order is authorized by section 422 (6) and (11) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December 24, 1973, Pub. L. 93-198, D.C. Official Code § 1-104.22 (6) and (11) (2007 Supp.), and by Title I of the Public Education Reform Amendment Act of 2007, effective June 12, 2007, D.C. Law 17-9, D.C. Official Code § 38-171 *et seq.* (2007 Supp.).

Please note the editorial revisions on the attached mark-up of the Order. As revised, the Order is legally sufficient.

Please be advised that all Mayor's Orders must be submitted to Clifton Posey, Advisor, Office of Documents and Administrative Issuances, for a format and style review. Therefore, it is requested that you forward the Order, as revised by this Office, to Mr. Posey for review.

Should you have questions regarding this memorandum, please contact either Pollie H. Goff, Senior Assistant Attorney General, Legal Counsel Division, at 724-5558, or me at 724-5524.

WCW/phg

Attachment